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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09622 290921Z

15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 MMS-04 SNM-02 M-02 SP-03 ISO-00 PER-05 RSC-01

DRC-01 /033 W
---------- 093458
R 290815Z AUG 74
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2026

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9622

STADIS//

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, HK
SUBJECT: OPRED/NARCOTICS: JUSTICE DEA PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 185508

1. WE WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BUCK CITY HALL ON THIS ONE ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ADDED VALUE TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE ADDITION OF ONE MORE USG POSITION TO THE HIGH PROFILE OF USG ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG.

2. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO OPPOSE ANY EFFECTIVE STRENGTHENING OF THE USG DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORT BASED HERE. CERTAINLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PROVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, THE CONGEN HAS NO DIFFICULTY IN APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ANALYST POSITION TO BE ADDED TO THE THREE OFFICER POSITIONS ALREADY ASSIGNED TO THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) OFFICE IN HONG KONG.

3. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SOME CONCERN THAT THE NEW POSITION MIGHT BE ADDING DIMENSION OF INTELLIGENCE SOPHISTICATION TO DEA EFFORT WHICH MIGHT NOT BE ENTIRELY NECESSARY IN VIEW OF DEA'S LIMITED OBJECTIVES HERE. (AS DEPT IS AWARE,
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DEA OFFICERS ARE NOT ENGAGED DIRECTLY IN OPERATIONS IN HONG

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KONG.) WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT EXPANSION OF DEA STAFF IS BEING SOUGHT ON THE BASIS THAT DEFICIENCIES IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE DRUG SCENE COULD BE MADE UP BY THE SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF INCREASING PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE APPLIED TO THE PROBLEM. IN THIS REGARD WE NOTE THAT THE POSITION WOULD ANALYZE NARCOTICS INFORMATION IN AN OPERATIONAL AREA OF HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WHEN TH LATTER DOES NOT IN FACT PROVIDE ANY NARCOTICS INFORMATION.

4. ALTHOUGH WE AGREE TO THE NEW POSITION, WE HOPE THAT ITS ESTABLISHMENT CARRIES WITH IT THE CONDITION THAT AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME (EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO TWO YEARS), AND AFTER CERTAIN INITIAL BASIC STUDIES AND DATA COLLATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, THE NECESSITY OF CARRYING THIS ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION IN THE HONG KONG STAFFING LEVEL BE REVIEWED AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY NO LONGER BE REQUIRED.
CROSS

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